(b) The proposed oceanarium will be set up at Miramar Beach in Goa.

(c) Yes, financial and expert help for these projects is being obtained from a foreign country;

(d) Through a Global Tender, a bid had been received from an Indian Company in collaboration with an Australian partner for constructing the Oceanarium on Build, Own, Operate and Maintain (BOOM) basis with 100% investment by them.

(e) Central Government has provided technical assistance in generating specifications and inviting proposals through a global tender. The Government of Goa is providing land on lease basis for the establishment of Oceanarium with appropriate annual returns.

(f) The estimated cost of establishment of Oceanarium at Goa is Rs. 68 crores.

Mega City Scheme

852. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal from the Gujarat Government for inclusion of Ahmedabad under Mega City Scheme is lying pending; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this retgard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. A proposal for inclusion of Ahmedabad under the Mega City Scheme was earlier received from Government of Gujarat. However, as the basic eligibility criterion for the selection of cities under the Mega City Scheme in the population of 4.00 million as per 1991 Census and the population of Ahmedabad Urban Agglomeration was 3.31 million at the 1991 Census, it was not possible to consider the inclusion of city of Ahmedabad in the Mega City Scheme. The position was communicated to the State Government.

LPG Consumers

853. SHRI SHANTILAL :
PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has recently launched Emergency Service Cell (ESC) at Ahmedabad in order to provide safety to its LPG Conusmers;

(b) if so, the details of the service and whether ESC is proposed to be extended to other parts of the State by IOC; and

(c) whether the Government proposed to issue directives to other Oil Companies also to provide similar service to their LPG customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. However, M/s. BPC is operating two Emergency Service Cells (ESC) at Ahmedabad on Industry basis.

(b) IOC is operating ESC at the following places in the State of Gujarat as on 1.10.96 :

Bhavnagar.

Palitana.

Amreli.

Doraji.

Manvadar.

Keshod.

The ESC is operated only to take care of leakage complaints of customers during non-working hours of the distributorships i.e. on working days after the closing hours of the distributorships till next day morning when the distributorships reopen; and on Sundays and Holidays on 24 hours basis.

(c) All the three PSU Oil marketing Companies viz. IOC, BPC and HPC have already set up Emergency Service Cells in all Metros/Major towns.

Rural Development Programmes

854. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to discontinue some Rural Development Programmes launched during 8th plan;

(b) if so, the Rural Development Programmes under implementation during 8th plan;

(c) the programmes that are likely to be discontinued in the 9th plan; and

(d) the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d). The rural development programmes being implemented by the Government during the Eighth Plan are listed in the Statement.

The Government has not taken a final decision on whether to discontinue any ongoing rural development programme in the Ninth Plan.